

From: Jose Marinez
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement

To whom it may concern:

Please stop this madness.

I would like to use other operating systems, but I can't. Not because these systems are technically inferior nor user friendly, but because of technical and "cultural" restrictions that have come about due to the Microsoft monopoly. In a world of open standards and free market economies there should be no need for a monster of the size and influence of Microsoft. Take for example the IE scenario. Back in the early days of the internet, Netscape was king of the browser market. People were very satisfied with the level of ease that all of a sudden you could browse the web. Netscape on the other hand was making money the all fashion way: producing a product that offered obvious value. Then comes Microsoft, after realizing that they were late to the latest economic and social revolution; decides to "compete" in the browser market. So what is wrong with that you say, well nothing, for the exception of how it was done. Microsoft as it has always done with most of its technologies, when out and bought a browser. But let me give you an example of the kind of negotiation that was involved in these acquisitions.

Microsoft: We want the best browser available on the market to compete with Netscape. What do you have?

Browser owner: Well, we have a product that can compete with Netscape head on. As a matter of fact, no other company can match us.

Microsoft: Can we test your technology and see your code?

Browser owner: Yes, under certain agreements.

Microsoft: No problem, after all, we are Microsoft.

Browser owner: I believe that our technology is worth \$X millions of dollars. Your company as well as any other competitor would agree.

Microsoft: We like what we see. But we are not willing to pay that much for it.

Browser owner: Sorry, but we really can't sell for less.

Microsoft: You don't understand. Since we control 95% of the OS market, what ever browser we bundle with our OS will become the defacto

standard. It will only be a matter of time. Do you and your browser want to "make history" or will we have to go to another competitor and make them the history makers. What do you say? I think this is a "sweet and innovative" deal.

Browser owner: It seems like I don't have much of a choice. I either sell to you at your price and with your conditions, or I'm out of the game for good because eventually you'll control the whole market. I think the choice is clear.

This is a very simple and classic scenario of what Microsoft can do to competitors and rivals. I'm not even mentioning the fact that there were other companies that probably had better technology but due to the competing obstacle of Microsoft ceased to produce a better product. As a consumer, I'm stuck with what may be mediocre technology and with no choice or hope of making a change.

Please stop the insanity. Don't sell out. This is more than just a complicated monopoly case. The future of technology as well as our economy for the next 20yrs. is at stake.

Thank you,

Jose Martinez